GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6962
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002
MECHANISED FISHING BOAT OPERATORS
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had received a representation from the Andhra Pradesh Mechanised Fishing Boat Operators for enhancing the reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on diesel consumed by the operators, reducing the monthly berthing rates charged from them and checking of foreign fishing vessels from entry into Indian Exclusive Maritime Zone in September, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. A representation from the Andhra Pradesh Mechanised Fishing Boat Operators` Association,Visakhapatnam was received in September, 2001 which contained the following issues:

(i) It was demanded to enhance the reimbursement of Central excise Duty on diesel consumed by small mechanised fishing boats below 20 meter length to Rs.2.25 as against Rs.0.35 per litre.

(ii) It was requested to reduce the monthly berthing rates charged from small mechanised fishing boat operators, which was increased to Rs.2,069/- as against Rs.230/- per fishing vessel.

(iii) It was also requested to check poaching by foreign fishing vessels effectively through the Coast Guard and other enforcement agencies.

(c): Regarding
(i) above, continuance of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of

`Reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on HSD oil supplied to mechanised fishing vessels below 20m length` beyond 9th Five Year Plan has not been agreed to by the Government of India.

The issue at (ii) above has been taken up with the Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam.

On (iii) above, no fresh licences or permits have been granted to the foreign fishing vessels since 1996 by the Government. Further, efforts have been initiated to evolve a national plan of action in consultation with all concerned including Ministry of Defence, External Affairs, Home Affairs and Coast Guard to deter illegal fishing within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the country.